



Rev'd Marisa Sifontes church, St James', Madison Avenue.



ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON

Sunday 15th March 2026

The Church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm and from 10am - 6pm on Saturdays and Bank Holidays

Services this Week

SUNDAY 15th March – Mothering Sunday

- 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30 am **Family Eucharist for Mothering Sunday**
Preacher: Rev'd Marisa Sifontes, Associate Rector,
St James Church, Madison Avenue, New York
- 11.15 am **Choral Matins**
Preacher: Rev'd Marisa Sifontes, Associate Rector,
St James Church, Madison Avenue, New York
- 5.30 pm **Taizé Eucharist**



MONDAY 16th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom
- 9 am Parents' Prayer Group
- 12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)
- 4 pm **Youth Confirmation Class** – St Philips' Church
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer
- 7 pm **Adult Confirmation Class** – St Mary Abbots' Vicarage

TUESDAY 17th March - Patrick, Patron of Ireland

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY 18th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12 noon **HEALING Eucharist**
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 19th March – Joseph of Nazareth

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 9.30 am **School Eucharist** – all welcome
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

FRIDAY 20th March - Cuthbert, Bishop

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 9.30 am Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre
- 12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
- 1.05 pm Royal College of Music Concert (*free entry*)
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

SATURDAY 21st March – Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop

- 12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 22nd March – Passion Sunday

- 8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
- 9.30 am **Parish Eucharist**
- 11.15 am **Choral Matins**
- 5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

Safeguarding

St Mary Abbots Church regards the safe care and protection of children and vulnerable adults as of the utmost importance. Please contact Rona at Safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org / 07561288178 or the Diocesan helpline: 02079321224.



On Sundays, everyone attending the 9.30 Eucharist or 11.15 Matins is warmly invited to join us for coffee and biscuits in the school hall next door at 10.30 am.



Thank you for donating to support our church's work, worship and upkeep. There are cash safes and standing order forms by the South Door and card readers at both entrances, or you can scan this QR code.

Message from Father Evan

We are about half-way through the season of Lent. Traditionally, the fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Laetare' Sunday after the first word of the Latin introit of the day translated in English as 'Rejoice'. These days what was once the celebration of the mother city of the people of God, Jerusalem, representing our heavenly home, is celebrated as Mothering Sunday. Though the focus of the day has shifted somewhat from the eternal to the temporal, we still rejoice as God's people as we give thanks for the comfort of all people and institutions that act as our 'mothers', giving nurture and guidance. **This Sunday we welcome the Reverend Marisa Sifontes from St James', Madison Avenue in New York as our guest preacher at both the eucharist and Matins. You may remember Marisa from last year, so do say hello and welcome her again to our church family.**



Mthr Emma and I will be hosting a **Lent film and discussion group** at 7pm on 25 March and 1 April. Through the lens of a popular television show we will be examining the narrative of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Please let Leonora know if you plan on attending so we can cater appropriately.

As is our custom at St Mary Abbots, **Palm Sunday (29 March) marks the performance of Handel's Messiah, part II & III**. Replacing 5.30pm Evensong, the Messiah affords a wonderful opportunity to meditate through music on the glory of Christ's suffering and death. As I mentioned at Christmas, I owe a great debt of thanks to my parents for playing the Messiah on my grandfather's old hi-fi system in our home at Christmas and Easter. The music helped me memorise a great deal of scripture which I treasure as an adult. Please consider coming along. Tickets are £15 (a bargain considering London event prices!) and include a glass of wine.

Looking ahead to the end of April, on the 28th the **Victorian Society will return to SMA with a lecture: 'A Royal Inheritance - The Afterlife of George IV's Collections and Building Projects, from William IV to Elizabeth II'**. This will be delivered by Tim Knox, Director of the Royal Collection, and looks to be a very interesting evening indeed. Entrance is £10 and the proceeds are split between the VicSoc and our own church.

I leave you with the, admittedly rather curious, Collect for Laetare Sunday as appointed in the Tridentine Rite (the pre-1962 Roman Catholic liturgy). I think it's worth pondering: *Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God: that we, who by the merit of our actions are crushed down, may by the consolation of Thy grace breathe again. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

With love, Fr Evan

Food Bank – plastic bags needed

On Thursdays our very kind volunteers we take the food that you have so kindly donated to the food bank boxes by the South and West Door to Dalgarno Trust. Simon, our head Virger, has asked for plastic bags as we have almost run out and can't transfer the food items from the storage to the cars. Please could you drop them off at the church in the food boxes or give to one of the virgers?

Taizé 2026 Youth Pilgrimage

18th – 26th July 2026

The YMIC pilgrimage will be held at **Taizé Community** in France from **18–26 July 2026**. Open to **School Years 10–13** and Bishop Martin Gainsborough (Bishop of Kingston) will be joining us. Taizé offers a unique week of prayer, sung worship, reflection, and community with thousands of young people from across Europe and beyond. It is a powerful opportunity for young people to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the wider Church. To find out more www.ymic-london.org/taize

ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON

Handel's Messiah

a performance by Candlelight **Part II & III**
with St Mary Abbots' Professional Choir & Players

Sunday 29th March 2026 at 5.30pm
at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, W8 4LA

Tickets: £15
includes a glass of wine
QR code or call 0203 479 4731
www.stmaryabbots.org.uk/whatison

This week we pray for

Ivell Arnold	Annie Redmile	Long-term need
Steven Armstrong	Mike Roberts	Christopher Browne
Steve Attack	Sara Strong	Nigel Grieve
Judith Boyd	Luke Valavanis	Viv Robinson
Eric de Bellaigue	Adam	Jono Robinson
Lisa Faris	Carolyn	Stefan Rogge
Roger Merchant	George	David Strong
Robin Price	Jean	Michael Turner
George Rabbett-Smith	Luke	
	Maria	

and for all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

Alfred Plumridge, 17 th March	Ben Regan, 19 th March
Hew Service, 20 th March	Margy Fitter, 20 th March
Berit Kringberg, 22 nd March	

For those who have died recently

Elke Von Brentano	Bill Wilde
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How to contact us

The Parish and Vicarage offices are open from 10am – 5pm

St Mary Abbots Church Hall, Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4HN

Website: www.stmaryabbots.org.uk Telephone: 0207 937 2419

Vicar: Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith	vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 6032
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Associate Vicar:		020 7470 6101
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Ed Warrick	ed.warrick@inseed.edu	
Vestry: Simon Fitter (<i>Head Virger</i>)	virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 5136
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and Welcome Co-Ordinator		
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Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Attack	friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk	07802 430055